

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:  
an audio signal detector for remotely receiving an audio signal; and  
a processor in communication with the detector, the processor configured to:  
compare the received audio signal with a predetermined audio signal  
generated by a device, wherein the predetermined audio signal is stored in a memory; and  
generate a muting signal when at least a component of the received audio  
signal matches the predetermined audio signal.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the audio signal detector includes a transducer.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, further including an amplifier in communication with  
the audio signal detector.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, further including an analog to digital signal converter in  
communication with the audio signal detector.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the predetermined audio signal is a ring.
6. An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:  
means for detecting an audio signal;  
means for storing a predetermined audio signal generated by a device;

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means for comparing the detected audio signal with the predetermined audio signal; and

means for generating a muting signal when at least a component of the detected audio signal matches the predetermined audio signal.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising means for amplifying the detected audio signal.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising means for converting the detected audio signal to a digitized detected audio signal.

9. An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:

- a transducer for remotely detecting an audio signal;
- an amplifier connected to the transducer for amplifying the detected audio signal;
- an analog to digital signal converter connected to the amplifier for converting the detected audio signal to a digitized detected audio signal;
- a memory connected to the converter; and
- a digital signal processor connected to the storage device and configured to:
  - compare the digitized detected audio signal with a digitized predetermined audio signal generated by a device, wherein the digitized predetermined audio signal is stored in the memory; and
  - generate a muting signal when at least a component of the digitized detected audio signal matches the digitized predetermined audio signal.

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10. A method for generating a muting signal, the method comprising:  
detecting an audio signal;  
storing a predetermined audio signal generated by a device in a memory;  
comparing the detected audio signal with the predetermined audio signal;  
generating a muting signal when at least a component of the detected audio signal matches the predetermined audio signal.

11. An audio device, comprising:  
an audio signal detector for remotely receiving an audio signal; and  
a processor in communication with the detector, the processor configured to:  
compare the received audio signal with a predetermined audio signal  
generated by another device, wherein the predetermined audio signal is stored in a memory; and  
mute the audio device when at least a component of the received audio signal matches the predetermined audio signal.

12. The audio device of claim 11, wherein the audio device is selected from the group consisting of a radio, a television, a stereo system, a CD player and a DVD player.

13. The audio device of claim 11, further comprising a muting on/off switch.

14. The audio device of claim 11, further comprising a training mode on/off switch.